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THE
PROPOSALS
FOR
PROMOTING
THE
WOOLLEN-MANUFACTORY,
P R O M O T E D.

Further making it appear, that the Nation will thereby Increase in Wealth, at least 5000 *l.* per day, for every day in the year on which it is lawful to Labour.

And that the Strength and Safety of the King and Kingdom, together with a most happy Reformation will be accomplished therein.

All which is most plainly demonstrated,

By several Well-wishers thereunto, Inhabitants and
Citizens of London. 1679

Licensed, April 29. 1679. RO. L'ESTRANGE.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *Langley Curtis* on *Ludgate-Hill*, MDCLXXIX.

THE
PROPOSALS
FOR
PROMOTING
THE
NATIONAL ANTI-SLAVERY
SOCIETY

under a new and improved plan, that the Society of Friends, in
conjunction with the other dissenting churches, and the
other religious societies, in the Kingdom, should be
And that the strength and safety of the Kingdom, and
together with a most happy Reformation will be
planned thereby.

All which is most plainly demonstrated.

By several Well-wishers thereto, Inhabitants and
Citizens of London.

LONDON, 1759. RO. T. ESTYARD.

L O N D O N

Printed for Langley Castle on Ludgate-Hill, MDCCLXXIX.

The Proposals for Promoting the *Woollen-Manufactory*, promoted.

NExt to being the Authors of profitable Inventions our selves, 'tis certainly most commendable to Incourage them in others, and endeavour, That what is happily found out, may be advantageously prosecuted. Men are grown to a wretched pass indeed, when, as *Cicero* complained, they leave off, *Non solum laudanda facere, sed etiam laudare*; Not only to do Praise-worthy Acts, but even to Commend them; Let us at least speak well of good Expedients, give the Labouring Promoters of Publick Weal our good word, and afford Industry a Tribute from our Tongues, though we are somewhat loth to allow her much from our Hands; To improve such effectual Expedients as will most reclaim Vice, and bring all Idle hands to Industry. To increase our richest Manufactories for Exportation, and especially to restore and advance that of Woollen, the Grand Staple Commodity of this Kingdom, which heretofore made the same to abound with Wealth, Power, and Honour, beyond any of its Neighbour Nations. These are things not to be Contemned or Neglected, but rather with the greater Diligence and Zeal to be Promoted and Encouraged to the utmost; For, since this golden Manufactory hath Decreased amongst us, several Offers and Essayes have been made for Remedy, and many who are concerned therein have been very impatient; and not sufficiently considering the Cause of the Distemper, some have moved the Parliament for the Exportation of Unwrought Wool, because little more than half what grows in the Nation is Converted. Others have Opposed them, and obtained an Act whereby to render the Exportation thereof Unwrought, a Capital Offence, and hang all those that should do it; yet are not able to Manufacture it themselves.

If Wool be Exported, the same will destroy our Markets abroad, and make People Beggars at home, saith the Clothier; But if it be kept at home, and not Converted, it will do us no good, saith Reason, with whom Experience and Poverty both joyn their Voices; the out-cries of the latter being heard, not only in every Street, but almost at every Door.

The last Parliament hath almost every Session made it a great part of their Business to Hear and Encourage those who had any thing to offer for the Recovery of this Trade; and yet, till the late Breviat of Proposals published by one Mr. *Richard Haines* came out, it must be acknowledged, That neither the Exporter of Wool, nor Opposer of the same, or any others, have offered any certain Expedients for bringing all Idle hands to Industry, whereby the Wool may be Converted as fast as it grows and arises, on such terms, that the Cloth we have to spare may be Exported as fast as 'tis made.

Wherefore, we cannot think it unreasonable, to joyn our Suffrages with him, and stir up all Active Publick Spirits, to promote and encourage that which will best accomplish this good Design: namely,

Work-houses to be Erected, and Stock raised in every County, in which, poor People, Beggars, &c. shall be Employed in this Manufactory, with such Method of Government as may prevent all such Miscarriages, as have formerly rendred such Houses unsuccessful in our Nation; which he hath, in such his Breviat, declared to make good, and to Answer all Objections in that Case, in his Proposals at large, which undoubtedly may be done with little Difficulty, because 'tis done and practised in other Nations, and may here as well as there.

The greatness of the Profits, namely, thirty or forty hundred thousand Pounds *per Annum*, we confess at first started us, but on deliberate Consideration we are satisfied with the Verity of it. And therefore judge it our parts to recommend it as aforesaid, with the Reasons and Grounds which have fully convinced us why such vast Wealth cannot but necessarily arise thereby to the Nation as thus.

In

In England we may reasonably conclude there are of Beggars petty Felons, Parish-Poor, and other idle People, which do little or nothing for their Living, 200 Thousand; whereof many who do nothing may earn six Pence *per* day, and those that earn six pence might earn twelve pence, when placed together in *view* of each other, where Correction and Encouragement are duly administred.

It may also be reasonably concluded, that each Person, one with another, may (with the help of some Clothiers) work as much Wool as will make fifteen pounds worth of Cloth in one Year, which, if so, then there will be thirty hundred thousand pounds worth to be Exported more than now is, as the Author of the Proposals does insert. But suppose the quantity fall short, yet we may reasonably conclude, that our Merchants in their course of Trade will near the matter double the Value in the returns of what they Export, so that still the Wealth of the Nation will be more, rather than less, increased, than what is proposed. But if we take no other measures than this, *viz.* that each Person, one with another, earns six pence *per* day, and that which is wrought by their Labour shall be Exported, 'tis a certain truth, the Nation will gain by their Labour 5000 *l.* for every day in the year that they work, as by Calculation doth appear; which, if doubled by the Merchants course of Trade, as aforesaid, it will then amount to no less than 10000 *l.* *per* day; clear gain to the Nation. And put case we allow 80 dayes in the year for Holy dayes, there remains 285 dayes to work in; which, by this modest Calculation, will bring in 2850000 *l.* in one year clear gain by their Labour, besides the Value of the Wool, and other things which add to the Value of all the Cloth they make. Nor is it to be doubted; but the Work of each Person, one with another, may amount to 8 *d.* *per* day, after some time of practice, so that for the future, by the Expedients proposed, all people, as aforesaid, being brought up to such habit of Industry, the Wealth of the Nation cannot but increase to the Value proposed. The Case is plain, and an ordinary Capacity, whose Judgment is not sway'd by corrupt Affection, may be well satisfied.

That

That we have Wool enough, Fullers Earth enough, poor People enough, Vagrants, petty Felons, Nurses of Debauchery &c. sufficiently enough to make Cloth enough to revive the Glory, Wealth, Strength, and Safety of the whole Nation is most certain, and may as certainly be effected with good Success; if instead of Houses of Debauchery, such Houses of Industry were erected. It being that which not only is practicable, but *de facto* hath been and now is practised on the same Consideration, by the means whereof there is not a Begger in the Country where 'tis used, and by which that overgrown and innumerable Multitude of leud People may most profitably be restrained.

All which considered, we can see no Reason why any People should oppose these Work-houses, unless it be those that do the greatest Mischief to the Persons, Estates, and Souls of Mankind, namely, the before mentioned Idle lewd Nurses of Debauchery, whom nothing can restrain so effectually as these houses, in which they would be held in Durance with great Advantage. Therefore it concerns them and their Abettors to obstruct the Building; and look how much a man is an Enemy to the one, so much he is the greater Friend to the other.

1. This we dare assert and maintain against all Opposers that shall put Pen to Paper against it, that if such a Gold or Silver Mine should be found in *England* as might afford five thousand Pounds *per* day throughout the year, it would not do the Nation near so much good, as these Expedients, if prosecuted.

2. That it is the greatest thing of such a kind, and easiest to be accomplished that hath been offered to the King and Parliament, to promote the Wealth, Strength, and Safety of the Kingdom; since in it the Woollen Manufacture hath been encouraged.

3. That the said Expedients are feasible and practicable; which being so, it must needs be some extraordinary and inordinate Affection that must force any man to oppose it.

4. That 'tis in vain to endeavour to suppress and destroy the Houses or Schooles of Debauchery, whilst the major part are Opposers and Enemies to the Houses of Industry, which may afford

afford a better Employment and honefter life to the Inhabitants, who ought to be removed from one to the other. And certainly if fuch publick Labours and Endeavours as will thus promote the greateft Happinefs of a Nation be contemned and discouraged, it will be enough to difhearten all noble and publick Spirits, and render them Objects for the Scorn and Derifion of the bafeft of Men.

Wherefore, to prevent this destructive Evil, we fhall with all hearty Affection and Zeal to the publick recommend the faid Expedients to all good People in the Nation, of what Eftate or Quality foever, *viz.*

1. To the pooreft and moft indigent, becaufe thereby they and their Children, and their Childrens Children fhall never want an honeft Employment, Food, Rayment, nor Habitation if uncharitable People do not hinder.

2. To the pious and religious, becaufe thereby an happy Reformation in the Lives and Conversations of many Thoufands will be accomplished; if the Friends to Debauchery do not hinder.

3. To the Breeders of Wool, becaufe thereby they will have quick Markets for their Wool as faft as it grows and riles; if the neglect of practical Expedients do not hinder.

4. To the Clothiers, becaufe thereby all the Wool of *England*, and what *Scotland* and *Ireland* have to spare will be fecured from being exported, and they may have it wrought upon cheaper Terms than before, as faft as they need it, having their Labourers partly maintained by a publick Stock, &c.

5. To the Drapers and Merchants; becaufe they may have their Cloth, and afford it on cheaper terms than thofe that have fupplanted us.

6. To the Farmers, &c. becaufe they may fave fix pence in every twelve pence of what they now Contribute to the Live-lyhood of the Poor, and may have better Markets for what they have to spare, fince fo many thoufands will near the matter Earn, and Pay for all they Eat, and Drink, and Wear, which before had all for Begging, Lying, and Diffembling.

7. To

The City of London

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dore

7. To the City of London in particular, whose Trade and Treasure will be near doubled, by reason of that double quantity of Cloth that will be Exported, by means whereof, the Returns will be of double value in Commodity or Treasure, &c.

8. To the Kings most Excellent Majesty, whose Revenue by the Increase of Customs will be proportionably increased, if rest of Management do not hinder.

9. And to the whole Kingdom in general, because, besides the Increase of Seamen and Navies of Ships, for its Defence Strength, and Safety; Wealth and Treasure will Increase therein, at least thirty or forty hundred thousand pounds every year more than it did; if those that are regardless of the Nations Weal, do not hinder, with a base intention to promote their own Private and Particular Lucre.

Wherefore, with submission to better Judgments, we will conclude with the Words of St. Paul, upon the whole Matter; *Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good Report; if there be any Virtue, and if there be any Praise, think on these things.*

F I N I S.